BARITONE/BASS

## G. Schirmer

# AMERICAN ARIA

Anthology





G. SCHIRMER, Inc.



C. Schimner

# AMERICANIARIA

Anthology

Compiled and Edited by Richard Walters

On the cover: Cityscape (1982), acrylic on canvas, 36 x 60 inches, by Charles Garabedian Courtesy of L.A. Louver Gallery, Venice, California. (The painting was destroyed by fire, Malibu, California, 1992.)

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1934	FOUR SAINTS IN THREE ACTS	Virgil Thomson
1939	THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF	Gian Carlo Menotti
1945	CAROUSEL	Richard Rodgers
1946	STREET SCENE	Kurt Weill
1947	THE MOTHER OF US ALL	Virgil Thomson
1949	LOST IN THE STARS	Kurt Weill
1949	REGINA	Marc Blitzstein
1950	THE CONSUL	Gian Carlo Menotti
1951	WUTHERING HEIGHTS*	Bernard Herrmann
1951	AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS	Gian Carlo Menotti
1953	THE MIGHTY CASEY	William Schuman
1954	THE SAINT OF BLEECKER STREET	Gian Carlo Menotti
1956	THE BALLAD OF BABY DOE	Douglas Moore
1958	VANESSA	Samuel Barber
1958	THE GOOD SOLDIER SCHWEIK	Robert Kurka
1959	A HAND OF BRIDGE	Samuel Barber
1966	ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA	Samuel Barber
1979	SWEENEY TODD	Stephen Sondheim
1980	TARTUFFE	Kirke Mechem
1986	THE TEMPEST	Lee Hoiby
1991	THE GHOSTS OF VERSAILLES	John Corigliano
1992	McTEAGUE	William Bolcom
1993	JOHN BROWN** (composed 1993, later revised)	Kirke Mechem
1999	THE GREAT GATSBY	John Harbison
2002	TEA	Tan Dun

<sup>\*</sup> first produced 1982

<sup>\*\*</sup> unproduced at the time of publication

#### **PREFACE**

It is exciting to have reached a point in history where a four-volume series of viable, attractive, musically diverse American arias is a practical possibility. It would have been unlikely, even far-fetched, to have imagined such a publication a few decades ago. The dramatic rise in the number of new operas created and a welcoming climate for them, as well as sustained interest in the best of the heritage of American operatic literature, makes it clear that the time has arrived for the G. Schirmer American Aria Anthology.

What is American opera? The easy answer is: operas created by American composers and librettists, or by composers and librettists working in America, most often (but certainly not exclusively) for American audiences. Those were the initial principal criteria for an aria to be considered for the *G. Schirmer American Aria Anthology*. Beyond that, the question becomes more difficult to answer, revealing an amalgam of aesthetics, common to most any slice of the continually emerging, dynamic American culture.

That basic question, "What is American opera?," leads to intriguing thoughts. Music written for the stage in the United States has sometimes straddled opera and musical theater in form and style, far more evidently than in Europe. The relationship of opera and Broadway is an ever evolving one. In the 1940s and '50s, a prevailing, publicly championed theory espoused Broadway as the true home for any relevant American opera movement, embraced in the work of Gian Carlo Menotti, Kurt Weill and Marc Blitzstein, among others. There are operatic influences in the theater work of Rodgers and Hammerstein, or Frank Loesser, to name just a couple of examples. At other times over the last century, the vocal and musical kinship between opera and Broadway has been more distant.

Hence the deliberate choice of the *G. Schirmer American Aria Anthology* as series title, allowing for the inclusion of some selections that are "arias" because of expansive vocalism in an operatic spirit, but which are not from works that could be clearly classified as operas. One may debate the definition of *Sweeney Todd* as opera or musical theater, but there is no doubt that it is firmly in the repertory of opera houses, and that is ample reason for including selected excerpts for operatic voices in these volumes. "What Good Would the Moon Be?" from *Street Scene*, or "What will it be for me?" from *Regina*, or the selections from *Lost in the Stars* may have strong musical theater elements, but they fairly represent an important aspect of opera written for Broadway. Nevertheless, while operatic singing is called for in musical theater, a line had to be drawn somewhere. We stopped short of including tempting material from pieces such as Frank Loesser's *The Most Happy Fella*, or Jerome Kern's *The Cat and the Fiddle*, or Harold Rome's *Fanny*, to cite a few possible examples. However, because of musical and cultural importance as landmark literature suitable for opera singers, we included "Ol' Man River" from *Show Boat* and "Soliloquy" from *Carousel* in the Baritone/Bass volume.

Sometimes subject matter of operas created in the United States is purely American and rooted in history or traditional stories, illustrated in Amistad, The Ballad of Baby Doe, Down in the Valley, John Brown, The Mother of Us All, and X. Other operas are based on more modern, urban American original stories: Gallantry, A Hand of Bridge, The Hero, The Old Maid and the Thief, The Saint of Bleecker Street, Street Scene, The Telephone. As might be expected, there are adaptations of American fiction and plays, such as The Emperor Jones, The Great Gatsby, Little Women, McTeague, The Mighty Casey, Regina, A Streetcar Named Desire, and A View from the Bridge. As the United States clearly emerged as the international center for music after World War II, opera composers and librettists turned to topics with an outlook not confined by borders. Some are historical: Madame Mao, Goya, Marco Polo, and Simón Bolívar. Others are original stories with either specific or vague national definition, as in Amahl and the Night Visitors, The Consul, Florencia en el Amazonas, The Medium, and Sweeney Todd. As has been true for centuries, plays and novels from classic, international literature continue to be the basis for operas: Antony and Cleopatra, The Ghosts of Versailles, The Good Soldier Schweik, Lost in the Stars, Tartuffe, The Tempest, The Wings of the Dove, Winter's Tale, and Wuthering Heights.

Trends emerge when studying the chronology of works represented in these volumes, from *Show Boat* (1927) to *Madame Mao* (2003). Until the 1920s, any attempts at establishing American opera (or operetta, or musical theater) fell in the deep shadow of European models. In the 1930s to '50s, American composers took the stage in pioneering a national operatic identity: George Gershwin, Virgil Thomson, Gian Carlo Menotti, Kurt Weill, Marc Blitzstein, Douglas Moore, Samuel Barber. In the 1960s and '70s, quality regional opera companies became established parts of communities across the country, and audiences for opera grew, spurred also by regularly televised performances. Supertitles at last put to rest the long-standing American complaint by some of the non-comprehension of opera. As compositional styles that had been prevalent in the mid-century became less austere, the ground was fertile for the boom of new opera in the last two decades of the 20th century, with momentum especially building in the 1990s. American audiences are decidedly more welcoming now than ever before of contemporary experiences in the opera house. A significant number of American operas have successfully found international appeal in frequent productions abroad.

The anthologies aim to be a manifold survey of the literature, principally formed by the central role that G. Schirmer has played as the leading publisher of American opera. Musical styles represented are diverse, and will appeal to a variety of tastes and vocal needs. Some arias are among the most famous of American operatic excerpts. Others are published for the first time in this series and await discovery. Many other arias, never published outside the complete vocal scores, have been adapted as solo aria editions, giving them new life as active repertory alternatives. A large number of the 153 selections in these four volumes are conducive to general opera auditions, allowing a singer to show voice, musicianship and acting ability with fresh material. Others will be useful for a specific kind of audition for contemporary opera. Still other arias, which might be less appropriate for auditions because of complexity or length, are compelling for study, or for recital. To reach their full potential as communicative performing artists, it is crucial for American singers to explore music in their own language, with which they can culturally identify.

On the cover of these anthologies we present a distinguished American image by Charles Garabedian, a peaceful, juxtaposed congruity of architectural styles, not unlike the co-existence of musical styles between the covers of these collections. Unfortunately, this 1982 painting was destroyed by fire. In its published appearance here we preserve its beauty and extend its life, bringing it to new audiences, just as we hope to do with the music contained within.

No one creates a four-volume series by himself. My thanks to Stephen Sondheim for his kind participation, to other composers who gave valuable input to these aria editions, to Charles Garabedian and the L.A. Louver Gallery, to several publishers who cooperated in granting use of their music, and to the dutiful editors who worked with me, applying themselves with such sustained interest.

Richard Walters Editor May, 2004

#### NOTES ON THE ARIAS

#### AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS

- music and libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti
- commissioned by NBC Television; first performed in a live broadcast on December 24, 1951

#### Oh, woman, you may keep the gold

in one act

setting: the Italian hills at the time of the birth of Christ; a poor woman's home and yard

character: King Melchior

This Christmas opera tells the story of a young crippled boy who is miraculously healed when he offers his crutch as a gift to the newborn Christ. The three Magi have stopped for the night at a poor widow's home. Near dawn, while all are asleep, the woman attempts to steal the gold to help her son, but she is caught. Young Amahl rushes to defend his mother. King Melchior forgives her and describes the higher purpose of his journey.

#### ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA

- music by Samuel Barber
- libretto by Franco Zeffirelli based on the play by Shakespeare
- commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera for the opening of the new Metropolitan Opera House in Lincoln Center,
   New York City; first performed there on September 16, 1966; a revised version was prepared by the composer in 1975,
   with textual revisions by Gian Carlo Menotti

#### Hark! the land bids me

from Act II, scene 5

setting: the Roman Empire, 41-31 BCE; a battlefield at Actium

character: Antony

Shakespeare's play, based on history, is a tragic story of love, power and intrigue, telling of the Roman General Marc Antony and his sensual mistress, Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt. Caesar, ruler of Rome, is furious that Marc Antony has crowned Cleopatra and himself as the rulers of the Roman Empire in the East. War begins between Antony and Caesar. Antony is on a desolate battlefield at Actium, where scavengers search among the corpses for loot. Antony, Eros and a few wounded soldiers view the destruction of Antony's army. The aria roughly corresponds to Act IV, scene 14 in the play.

#### THE BALLAD OF BABY DOE

- music by Douglas Moore
- libretto by John Latouche, based on the life of Elizabeth "Baby Doe" Tabor
- commissioned by the Koussevitzky Foundation of the Library of Congress in honor of the Columbia University bicentennial; first performed on July 7, 1956 at the Central City Opera House, Central City, Colorado

#### Warm as the autumn light

from Act I, scene 2

setting: Leadville Colorado, 1880; outside the Clarendon Hotel

character: Horace Tabor

This opera is based on the true rags-to-riches-to-rags story of Baby Doe Tabor, second wife of silver magnate and US Senator Horace Tabor. Baby is in the lobby of the hotel, playing the piano and singing "Willow Song." When she finishes, Tabor applauds, drawing her to the window, smitten.

#### Turn tail and run then

from Act II, scene 2

setting: Colorado, 1885; a club room in Denver

character: Horace Tabor

Horace, who has made his fortune in silver mining, is angry at his cronies for saying that they all have to change with the times now that it looks like President McKinley will push the gold standard, decimating the silver business by moving from the silver standard. Horace says he is going to go against the political party, but his friends rigorously say they will not and leave in anger.

#### Good people of Leadville

from Act II, scene 3

setting: Colorado, 1896; outside the Matchless Mine

character: William Jennings Bryan

The great orator and politician William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925) speaks to an enthusiastic crowd at the Matchless Mine

#### **CAROUSEL**

- music by Richard Rodgers
- book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, based on Ferenc Molnár's Liliom, as adapted by Benjamin F. Glazer
- first performed on March 22, 1945 at the Shubert Theatre, New Haven, Connecticut; opened on Broadway on April 19, 1945 at the Majestic Theatre, New York City

#### Soliloguy

from Act I, scene 3

setting: the New England coast, 1873; Nettie Fowler's Spa on the ocean front

character: Billy Bigelow

Billy Bigelow, formerly a barker at a carnival carousel, was quite the carefree ladies' man, but has fallen in love and married Julie Jordan. His old boss at the carnival offers him his job back as barker, but only on the condition that he leaves Julie. What use is a handsome barker whom all the girls chase if he goes home every night to his wife? He goes to talk to Julie about it, but she surprises him by saying that she is pregnant. This "Soliloquy" is his reaction to the news. Though Carousel is decidedly musical theater or operetta and not opera, this piece has the musical and vocal proportions of an aria, and is an appropriate inclusion in this collection.

#### THE CONSUL

- music and libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti
- first performed on March 1, 1950 at the Schubert Theater in Philadelphia; opened on Broadway on March 15, 1950 at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre, New York City

#### The Police Agent's Aria

from Act I, scene 1

setting: a European police state, the present; the apartment of John and Madga Sorel

character: the Secret Police Agent

The secret police have been watching freedom activist John Sorel very closely. He has just attended a secret meeting, and was fired upon and wounded by the police as he left. John rushes home, and is hiding when the secret police agent comes with two of his men to the Sorel apartment. They search the place, and the agent questions and threatens John's wife, Magda, in this menacing aria.

#### THE EMPEROR IONES

- music by Louis Gruenberg
- libretto by Kathleen de Jaffa, after the play by Eugene O'Neill
- commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera; first performed there on January 7, 1933

#### Oh, Lawd Jesus, heah my prayer

from Act II

setting: a Caribbean island; the end of plain where the great forest begins

character: Brutus Jones

Brutus Jones, a burly African-American man, is sentenced to work on a chain gang for the murder of his friend. He escapes to a Caribbean island where he dominates the natives. They eventually come to hate him and he flees. Jones is on the edge of the great forest, looking for the food he has hidden. He is terrified by visions and memories, firing his gun at the images his mind is creating. He quotes the spiritual, "Standin' in the Need of Prayer," in his desperation. *The Emperor Jones* was noted in its era for bringing into the opera house a distinctively American musical and theatrical style.

#### FOUR SAINTS IN THREE ACTS

- music by Virgil Thomson
- text by Gertrude Stein
- first performed on February 8, 1934, in the auditorium of the Avery Memorial, Hartford, Connecticut

#### Once in a while

from Act III

setting: Spain, the 16<sup>th</sup>-century; a monastery garden

character: Saint Ignatius

This surrealist drama depicts the lives of saints in 16<sup>th</sup>-century Spain, with whom the authors saw certain parallels to the lives they were living as "consecrated artists." Saint Ignatius predicts the last judgment.

#### THE GHOSTS OF VERSAILLES

- music by John Corigliano
- libretto by William M. Hoffman, suggested by Beaumarchais' La mère coupable
- commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera in honor of its centenary; first performed there on December 19, 1991

#### They wish they could kill me

from the Prologue

setting: the palace of Versailles, the present and the autumn of 1793; a smaller stage within the set contains a performance of an opera featuring the ghosts of characters from Beaumarchais' stories

character: Figaro

Versailles is haunted by ghosts of the court of Louis XVI in this opera within an opera. The ghost of playwright Beaumarchais has written an opera, A Figaro for Antonio, with a plot designed to free Marie Antoinette, who still mourns her untimely execution, from eternal misery. Beaumarchais assures Marie Antoinette that he can change the course of history through the power of his art, and thus bring her back to life. The opera is underway. A chase scene on the small stage incites a similar scene within the audience of ghosts as well. Finally, Figaro locks all of his pursuers in a closet.

#### Figaro was supposed to return the necklace

from Act II, scene 1

setting: the palace of Versailles, the present and the autumn of 1793; a smaller stage within the set contains a set in the style of an opulent Turkish court

character: Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais

In the performance of the opera-within-the opera, Figaro is rebelling against the scripted plot written by playwright Beaumarchais. Furious at such behavior, Beaumarchais stops the performance and tries to convince the offended Marie Antoinette, who has turned to leave, of his noble intentions. He resolves to enter his own opera to force Figaro to follow the plot.

#### THE GOOD SOLDIER SCHWEIK

- music by Robert Kurka
- libretto by Lewis Allan, based on the novel by Jaroslav Hasek
- commissioned by New York City Opera; first performed there on April 23, 1958

#### The Doctor's Aria

from Act II, scene 1

setting: c1914, the Austrian-Hungarian frontier; a makeshift army infirmary

character: an Army Doctor

The novel by Jaroslav Hasek (1883-1923), written in Czech and unfinished at his death, is a sharp, dark yet funny anti-war satire that targets politics, patriotism, religion, psychiatry, and everything else. The idiot savant hero of the story, Joseph Schweik, answered the army draft in a wheelchair, crippled from rheumatism. He is a new arrival at an army infirmary. He and his companion soldiers are all labeled malingerers, feigning illness, by the army doctor. Schweik has just been introduced to the doctor, and states his ailment. The aria is the sadistic doctor's reply. Part of the charm and power of the original novel is that though Schweik seems like an idiot savant, one is never sure if it's not a brilliant, calculated act.

#### Dear Madame

from Act II, scene 1

setting: c1914, Budejovice, near the Austrian-Hungarian frontier; a private room in St. Stephen's Cross Café character: Lieutenant Henry Lukash

Army Lt. Lukash won Schweik's services as an orderly/servant in a card game with a chaplain, but Schweik caused so much trouble that Lukash dismissed him. Schweik was then arrested for stopping a train with an emergency brake while onboard, leaving Lukash in peace. Sipping cognac in a café, Lukash is quite pleased with himself as he writes a flirtatious love letter to a married lady he saw recently at the theater.

#### THE GREAT GATSBY

- music and libretto by John Harbison, based on F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel
- popular song lyrics by Murray Horwitz
- commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of James Levine's debut; first performed there on December 20, 1999

#### I remember long ago

from Act II, scene 6

setting: the jazz age, Long Island; Gatsby's lawn at dawn; there is a coffin on the porch

character: Nick Carraway

Fitzgerald's classic novel, published in 1925, tells the story of the rise and fall of mysterious, self-made millionaire Jay Gatsby in jazz-age America, and his love for Daisy Buchanan. Gatsby has been murdered by George Wilson. Nick Carraway and Jordan Baker are in front of Gatsby's mansion, the only guests at the funeral of the man who once hosted parties attended by hundreds of glamourous people.

#### A HAND OF BRIDGE

- music by Samuel Barber
- libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti
- first performed on June 17, 1959 at the Festival of Two Worlds, Spoleto, Italy

#### And this will be my epitaph

in one act

setting: a bridge game, the present

character: David

This nine-minute opera takes place during a long-standing bridge game between two couples. Each of the four players takes a turn in the spotlight, expressing thoughts in asides.

#### JOHN BROWN

- music and libretto by Kirke Mechem
- composed 1993, later revised; at the time of publication the opera had not had a professional production

#### The Songs of the Slave

from Act II

setting: a meadow in Kansas, May, 1856

character: Frederick Douglass

The opera concerns abolitionist John Brown (1800-59), an activist who was executed for his attempts to end slavery by violence amid a complex pre-war political situation. In the aftermath of the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act passed by Congress, which dictated that the question of slavery in those territories was to be decided by their residents in elections, Kansas became a bloody political battleground for North and South. At a gathering of sympathizers John Brown introduces former slave Frederick Douglass (1818-95) as "slavery's greatest enemy." Douglass, one of the foremost 19<sup>th</sup>-century civil rights activists and a brilliant speaker, addresses the crowd.

#### LITTLE WOMEN

- music and libretto by Mark Adamo, after the novel by Louisa May Alcott
- commissioned by Houston Grand Opera; first performed on March 13, 1998 at the Houston Grand Opera Studio

#### There was a knight

from Act I, scene 2

setting: New England, Civil War era; the path in front of the March family house

character: John Brooke

John Brooke, a tutor, is in love with Meg March. As Brooke walks Meg home, she offers to teach him a storytelling game. The story Brooke conjures clearly shows his feelings for Meg, as her sister Jo and her suitor Laurie listen and are appalled that he would reveal so much personal feeling.

#### Kennst du das Land (Do you know the land)

from Act II, scene 2

setting: the Civil War era; a boarding house in New York City where Jo March resides

character: Friedrich Bhaer

The adventures of the New England March sisters, going through the privations of war, are the backdrop against which sister Jo resists moving into adulthood. Jo March, a successful young writer of sensational cheap fiction, has struck out on her own and lives in Manhattan. Professor Friedrich Bhaer is a German teacher who lives at the same boarding house. At 39 he is quite a few years older than Jo, but they strike up a warm friendship. They are debating the merits of opera after attending a performance. Jo loves the melodrama, but Bhaer will have none of it. They bond in conversation about art, love and relationships. Jo asks him, "Well, if the opera isn't, and my stories aren't, what's 'proper' art?" Bhaer responds with Goethe's "Kennst du das Land." When Jo asks for a translation, it becomes a declaration of his feelings for her.

#### LOST IN THE STARS

- music by Kurt Weill
- libretto by Maxwell Anderson, based on Alan Paton's novel Cry, the Beloved Country
- opened on Broadway on October 30, 1949 at the Music Box Theatre, New York City

#### Thousand of Miles

from Act I, scene 1

setting: a small village in South Africa, 1949

character: Stephen Kumalo

Lost in the Stars is set against the apartheid of South Africa. Absalom, son of the Reverend Stephen Kumalo, has left his small South African village for Johannesburg. Stephen and his wife Grace have not heard from him for nearly a year. Grace is certain that something is wrong, but Stephen has faith.

#### O Tixo, Tixo, help me!

from Act II, scene 2 setting: Johannesburg, 1949 character: Stephen Kumalo

A white man, an activist for the rights of blacks, is murdered by a group of black man, including Absalom, who turned to robbery in desperation for money. Stephen has found his son Absalom in Johannesburg and learned of his crime. He agonizingly prays to God about the terrible dilemma. If Absalom confesses, he will surely be convicted to death as the murderer of a white man. If he lies, he might live, but at what price? Stephen eventually persuades his son to confess to the crime. "Tixo" is Stephen's word for God.

#### **McTEAGUE**

- music by William Bolcom
- libretto by Arnold Weinstein and Robert Altman, based on the novel by Frank Norris
- commissioned by Lyric Opera of Chicago; first performed there on October 31, 1992

#### Jehosophat!

from Act II, scene 5

setting: Nevada, c1900; the desert near the edge of a ghost town

character: Marcus Schouler

Greed is the undoing of McTeague, his wife, and her cousin in this verismo tale. Schouler and McTeague were once great pals, but had a violent falling out over a woman and money. Schouler has followed a demented cleaning woman's advice and traveled from San Francisco to a ghost town in Nevada in search of promised gold, which is not there. Schouler encounters a sheriff and posse, and recognizes McTeague on a "wanted" poster. Schouler is quickly made deputy and goes off into the desert alone to find McTeague, singing of his determination to get even.

#### THE MIGHTY CASEY

- music by William Schuman
- libretto by Jeremy Gury, based on Ernest L. Thayer's 1888 poem, "Casey at the Bat"
- first performed on May 4, 1953 by Moss Music Group, Hartford, Connecticut

#### In 1839

in one act, from scene 1

setting: Mudville, USA, "not so long ago"; the stadium on the day of the big baseball game against Centerville character: The Watchman

Like the famous poem upon which it is based, *The Mighty Casey* finds Centerville playing Mudville for the Inter-Urban League State Championship. The Watchman, a resident of Mudville, is a folksy narrator character, described as "a kindly man, mellowed and wise-looking." As fans gather and the team arrives, he gives a brief history of baseball before introducing the Mudville team.

#### The Catcher's Song

in one act, from scene 2

setting: Mudville, USA, "not so long ago"; the stadium on the day of the big baseball game against Centerville character: Thatcher (Centerville catcher)

Mudville's mighty Casey, who has a .564 batting average, comes up to the plate as Centerville leads Mudville four to two, with two outs and two men on base in the bottom of the ninth inning. The Centerville catcher waddles out to the mound, pushing back his mask in the accepted manner of catchers' conferences with pitchers. He stares down into his mitt and quietly builds the pitcher's confidence.

#### The Manager's Song

in one act, from scene 2

setting: Mudville, USA, "not so long ago"; the stadium on the day of the big baseball game against Centerville

character: Manager

Casey, the Mudville slugger and hero, is at bat in the bottom of the ninth. The umpire calls "strike one!" The Mudville manager argues the call.

#### The Umpire's Song

in one act, from scene 2

setting: Mudville, USA, "not so long ago"; the stadium on the day of the big baseball game against Centerville character: Umpire Buttenheiser

After being dressed down by the Mudville manager, the Umpire makes his reply.

#### THE MOTHER OF US ALL

- music by Virgil Thomson
- libretto by Gertrude Stein
- commissioned by Columbia University, New York City; first performed there on May 7, 1947

#### What what is it

from Act II, scene 2

setting: America in the 19th century, the drawing room of Susan B. Anthony's home, characters from other eras are dressed appropriately for their time character: Daniel Webster

More pageant than dramatic opera, *The Mother of Us All* unites figures who were pivotal in the struggle for women's suffrage, pulling them from many historical eras to share a single stage and narrative. Susan has just spoken persuasively at a political meeting. Others rush in to congratulate her, but Daniel Webster criticizes.

#### Angel More

from Act II, scene 3 (Epilogue) setting: the Congressional Hall, some years later character: Daniel Webster

At the unveiling of the statue of Susan B. Anthony at the Congressional Hall, Daniel Webster thinks of his old sweet-heart, now dead, named Angel More.

#### THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF

- music and libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti
- commissioned by NBC Radio; first performed in a live broadcast on April 22, 1939

### When the air sings of summer (Bob's Aria)

in one act, from scene 7

setting: a small town somewhere in the United States, the present; the guest bedroom of Miss Todd's house character: Bob

An elderly old maid, desperate for male company, takes in a beggar and wanderer who turns out to be a thief. She won't let go of him, going so far as to steal liquor (to avoid the shame of being seen buying it) to keep him happy. The restless Bob is alone in the room he has been occupying, packing his bundle and preparing to leave. Eventually he elopes with Laetitia, Miss Todd's maid, and together they rob the old woman.

#### **REGINA**

- music and libretto by Marc Blitzstein, based on The Little Foxes, a play by Lillian Hellman
- first performed on October 6, 1949 at the Schubert Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut; opened on Broadway on October 31, 1949 at the 46<sup>th</sup> Street Theater, New York City

#### Horace's Aria

from Act II, scene 1

setting: Bowden, Alabama, 1900; the living room of the Giddens' house, evening

character: Horace Giddens

The opera is about how greed destroys a southern American family. Horace is the unwilling source of money that will fund the business venture put together by his wife Regina and her two brothers, Ben and Oscar. Horace has advanced heart disease and has been in treatment for several months at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. The scheming Regina, needing Horace's signature and capital, sends their daughter Alexandra to bring him home. Horace and Alexandra are late in arriving from the trip. Upon entering the house, the weak and frail Horace first encounters the friendly and welcome presence of Addie, his long-time African-American servant.

#### Greedy Girl

from Act III

setting: Bowden, Alabama, 1900; the living room of the Giddens' house; late morning

character: Ben Hubbard

Horace refuses to back Regina's share of the business deal that she and her brothers, Ben and Oscar, put together with William Marshall of Chicago. Ben, Oscar, and his son Leo conspire to steal \$88,000 in Union Pacific bonds from Horace's safe deposit box for the deal money. Horace discovers the theft and tells Regina, saying that he is leaving her only those bonds and nothing else in his new will. He then has a heart attack and is unconscious, soon to die, as the cold-blooded Regina tells Ben that she wants 75% of the Hubbard share of the new venture in exchange for the bonds, "and if I don't get it, I'm going to put the three of you in jail." "Greedy Girl" is Ben's reply. After the optional ending, as edited in this anthology, the ensemble scene resumes, and Regina repeats and strengthens her threats. Oscar says to Ben, "Are you going to let her do this?" Ben replies, "You have a suggestion?" Regina states, "You're a good loser, Ben. I like that." Ben's aria then continues.

#### THE SAINT OF BLEECKER STREET

- music and libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti
- opened on Broadway on December 27, 1954 at the Broadway Theatre, New York City

#### Ah, poor Michele

from Act I, scene 1

setting: Greenwich Village, New York City, the present; a cold-water flat in the tenements of Bleecker Street

character: Don Marco

A brother and sister, Michele and Annina, are both driven by Catholicism, she by her deep faith and the stigmata that appear on her hands, he by his hatred of religion. Annina is quite ill and has had another vision with stigmata. Michele returns home and is infuriated by the people gathered to witness the miraculous event. He confronts Don Marco, a priest, charging him to stay away from his sister.

#### **SHOW BOAT**

- music by Jerome Kern
- book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, based on the novel by Edna Ferber
- opened on Broadway on December 27,1927 at the Ziegeld Theatre, New York City

#### Ol' Man River

from Act I, scene 1

setting: the show boat Cotton Blossom on the Mississippi River, docked at the levee at Natchez, Mississippi, c1890 character: Joe

Cap'n Andy's show boat, the Cotton Blossom, travels up and down the Mississippi. His daughter, Magnolia, has just met and become instantly infatuated with Gaylord Ravenal, a river gambler. Joe is a wise soul, a handy-man/servant/all around worker on the boat, coupled with Queenie, a servant. Magnolia runs into Joe, and breathlessly asks, "Did you see that young man I was talkin' to?" He replies, "Yep, I seed him, seed a lot like him on de river." Magnolia runs off to tell others of her newfound beau, and Joe says, after she leaves, "Better ask de ol' river what he thinks, he knows all 'bout dem boys... he knows all 'bout everythin'..." He sits on a nearby box, takes out a knife, picks up a piece of scrap wood and idly starts to whittle as he begins to sing "Ol' Man River," about the oppression of this life compared to the ongoing, timeless flow of the Mississippi. Show Boat is musical theater, not opera. However, this song is certainly for an operatic voice, and has the expanse of an aria in its design and subject matter. It is truly an "American aria" by any liberal definition, and an essential part of the heart of greatest of American stage music for a bass or bass-baritone. Show Boat was a pioneering landmark in American theater music, paving the way for serious musicals and operas on Broadway.

#### STREET SCENE

- music by Kurt Weill
- libretto by Elmer Rice, after his own play of the same name
- lyrics by Langston Hughes and Elmer Rice
- first performed on December 16, 1946 at the Schubert Theatre in Philadelphia; opened on Broadway on January 9, 1947 at the Adelphi Theatre, New York City

#### Let things be like they always was

from Act I

setting: the sidewalk in front of New York City tenement, the present; a hot evening in June character: Mr. Maurrant

This slice-of-life opera looks at several working-class families living in a New York City tenement, centered on the Maurrants: Frank, a rough stagehand, his wife Anna, who is having an affair, their young adult daughter Rose, and ten-year-old Willie. Frank Maurrant is an angry man, suspicious of his wife's infidelity, and also of Rose's dates. Several of his neighbors argue about how to raise children, moving quickly to animated talk of politics. Maurrant lunges for Kaplan, a liberal thinker, intending to hit him. The fight is avoided, but Maurrant is left with several of his neighbors to speak his mind.

#### **SWEENEY TODD**

#### The Demon Barber of Fleet Street

- music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
- book by Hugh Wheeler
- first performed on February 6, 1979 at the Uris Theatre, New York City; the official Broadway opening at the same theater was on March 1, 1979

#### **Epiphany**

from Act I

setting: Victorian era London; Sweeney Todd's barber shop

character: Sweeney Todd

Benjamin Barker was a barber in London, in love with his beautiful young wife, Lucy, and happy in their life with a young daughter. Judge Turpin lusted after Lucy and conspired to have Barker convicted on trumped-up charges and sent away from the country as a prisoner. Many years later he has escaped and returned to London as Sweeney Todd, determined to avenge his fate. Todd has opened a barber shop above Mrs. Lovett's pie shop. He slits the throats of customers, furnishing her with meat for her pie fillings. Todd had the hated Judge Turpin in his barber chair, but before he could exact his revenge, Anthony interrupts and infuriates the judge. The judge states that he will never come back again and an irate Sweeney drives Anthony from the shop. Mrs. Lovett hurries in to see what all the shouting is about. The aria has been adapted for this edition, eliminating a few lines sung by Mrs. Lovett near the beginning of the piece. The composer created a new aria ending especially for this edition.

#### **TARTUFFE**

- music and libretto by Kirke Mechem, based on the play by Molière
- commissioned by the American Opera Project; first performed on May 27, 1980 at the Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

#### Every day at church

from: Act [

setting: 17<sup>th</sup>-century Paris, an elegant parlor in a wealthy home

character: Orgon

Molière's classic comedy is about how Tartuffe, a religious hypocrite, finagles his way into a wealthy, middle-class Parisian home and nearly brings the family to ruin before the king intervenes. At this point in the plot Orgon, the master of the house, has returned home. Dorine, the maid, trys to tell him that his wife has been ill. But he is not interested in such news. He asks about Tartuffe. He is alone on the stage as he sings this aria until, near the end, Elmire, his wife, joins him. He does not notice her and continues his unabated praise of Tartuffe.

#### TEA

- music by Tan Dun
- libretto by Tan Dun and Xu Ying, translated by Diana Liao
- commissioned by Suntory Hall, Tokyo, for the new century; first performed there on October 22, 2002

#### Venus of the East

from Act I, scene 2

setting: ChangAn, capital of ancient China

character: Emperor/Seikyo

This impressionistic and symbolic opera, borrowing from Japanese and Chinese opera traditions, is framed by the meaning-ful ritual of a tea ceremony. The prince and princess (Lan) are performing a puppet opera for their father, the emperor, at the palace. They are interrupted by Seikyo, a prince from Japan, still in love with Lan after a meeting of ten years past. Seikyo first asks the emperor for a theme, and is given tea to address with improvised poetry. The emperor asks Seikyo, "are you also good at couplets?" To which Seikyo replies, "Give me the first line, majesty." This aria, about who will win the love of Lan, has two strophes and is sung by two different characters, but works very well as a solo. The first strophe, a question, is sung by the emperor; the second, in reply, is sung by Seikyo. Tan Dun, born in China, has lived in the US since 1986.

#### THE TEMPEST

- music by Lee Hoiby
- libretto by Mark Shulgasser, after the play by Shakespeare
- commissioned by Des Moines Metro Opera; first performed there on June 21, 1986

#### Our revels now are ended

from Act III, scene Masque

setting: Prospero's island, isolated and of indeterminate location

character: Prospero

A violent storm, created by the master sorcerer Prospero, the rightful but exiled duke of Milan, has caused the wreck of a ship carrying his deceitful brother and others. The survivors make their way to the island, but do not immediately find one another. Among them is Ferdinand, son to the king of Naples. He and Miranda, Prospero's daughter, fall in love. She has never before seen another human other than her father. Prospero puts Ferdinand through some tests of his character and earnestness, which the young man passes. Prospero gives his consent to marriage, but first summons a vision of three ancient goddesses, Iris, Ceres, and Juno, who bless the union. Prospero suddenly remembers a conspiracy among some on the island to kill him, and irritated, ends the vision. Ferdinand and Miranda are confused by the abrupt ending of the beautiful masque. The wise Prospero replies with this philosophical aria, calming their confusion at his sudden change of mood. Describing a perspective on the vision they have just seen, he ends with one of the most famous of Shakespeare lines, "We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep." The aria corresponds to Act IV (which only has one scene) in the play. (This synopsis only addresses the one pertinent sub-plot of the several in this complex play.)

#### **VANESSA**

- music by Samuel Barber
- libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti, based on the Gothic stories of Isak Dinesen
- commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera; first performed there on January 15, 1958

#### You rascal, you! I never knew you had a soul

from Act II

setting: a northern country, c1905; a lavish New Year's Eve party at the country mansion of a Baroness and her daughter, Vanessa character: the Old Doctor

The Old Doctor (he has no other name in the opera) is a longtime friend of Vanessa and her mother, the Baroness. The Doctor finds Nicholas, the major-domo, handling the rich furs that women guests have taken off before entering the party. He sees Nicholas rubbing his cheek against a fur, sighing, and taking in the feminine fragrance, and hears him say, "This is all I shall ever know of such women." The Old Doctor, a little tipsy, sings his confidential thoughts to Nicholas in the aria.

#### For ev'ry love there is a last farewell

from Act III, scene 2

setting: a northern country, c1905; the drawing room of the country mansion of a Baroness and her daughter, Vanessa character: the Old Doctor

The middle-aged Vanessa and the young Anatol have are now married and preparing to leave the estate to move to Paris. They supervise as the servants pack the sleigh. The Old Doctor, who delivered Vanessa as a baby, reminisces to her as he prepares to say goodbye.

#### **WUTHERING HEIGHTS**

- music by Bernard Herrmann
- libretto by Lucille Fletcher, adapted from the novel by Emily Brontë
- composed 1943-51; first performed on November 6, 1982 at the Portland Opera

#### Man that is born of a woman

from Act I, scene 1

setting: Yorkshire, England, 1840; the main hall at Wuthering Heights, a country manor house; a late afternoon in midsummer character: Joseph

Emily Brontë's only novel, published in 1847, is the complex, tragic tale of star-crossed lovers Catherine and Heathcliff and generations of their families. The plot has a rich background in the book that is not covered completely in the opera. Some years before, Mr. Earnshaw encountered an apparently homeless orphan, Heathcliff, and brought him to Wuthering Heights to be raised with his children, Catherine and Hindley. Hindley hated Heathcliff from the first, but Catherine and Heathcliff were very close from childhood, both sharing a free-spirited love of the wild moors. At this point in the story Mr. Earnshaw has died. Hindley is running the house, and has reduced Heathcliff to the status of a servant. Hindley accuses his sister Cathy of behaving inappropriately with the free-spirited Heathcliff. As a moral lesson Hindley instructs his servant Joseph to read from the Scriptures for all of them. This is the only opera by the great film composer Bernard Herrmann (1911-75). It was unproduced on stage in his lifetime, although Herrmann conducted a complete recording.

# G. Schirmer AMERICAN ARIA Anthology

# Oh, woman, you may keep the gold from AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS

Gian Carlo Menotti

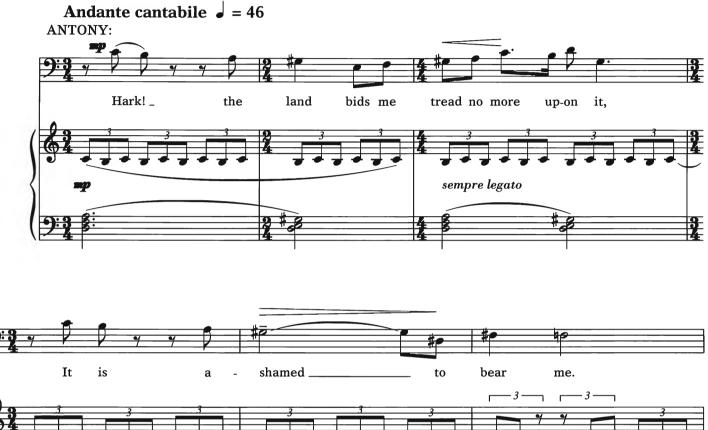




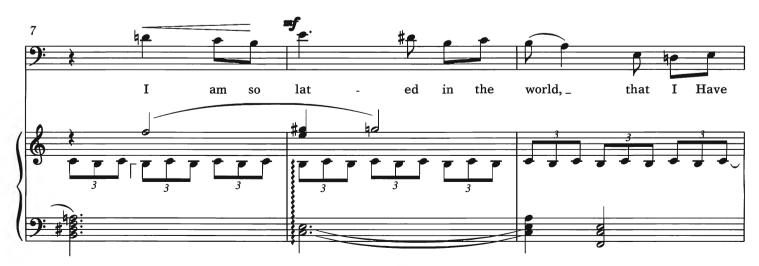
# Hark! the land bids me from ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA

Franco Zeffirelli

Samuel Barber

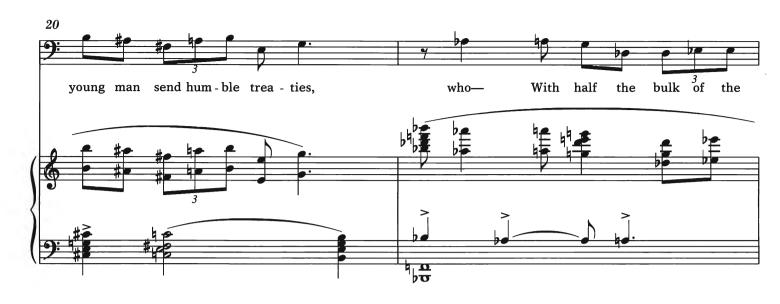


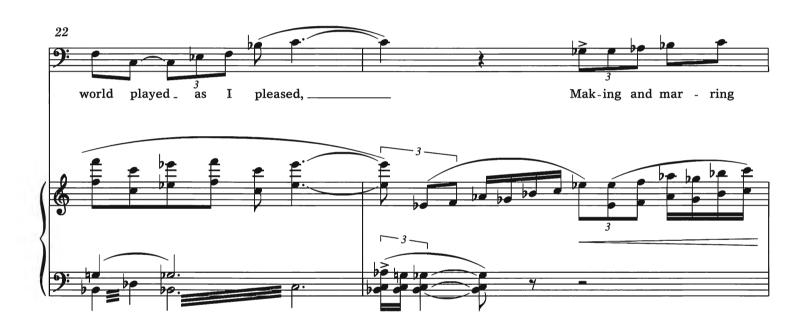




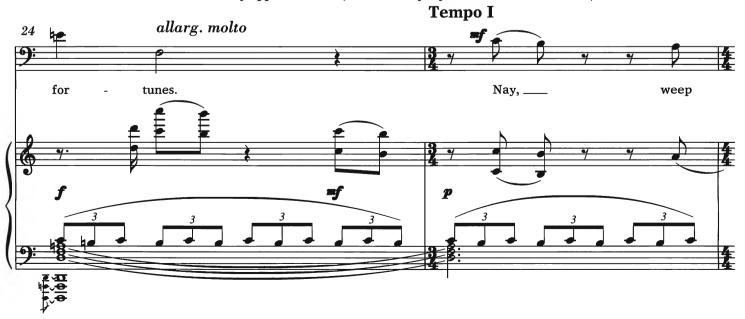
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(Completely stunned, Eros sinks to his knees and bursts into loud sobs. Antony approaches him, and tenderly lays his hand on Eros' head.)

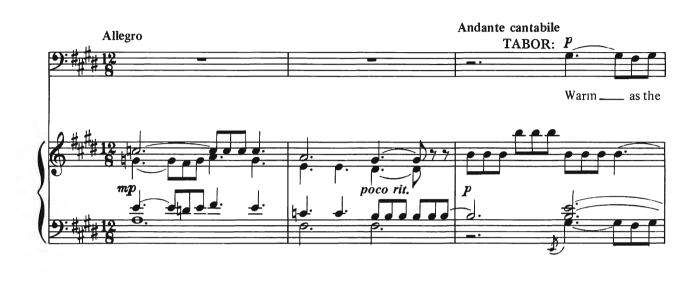


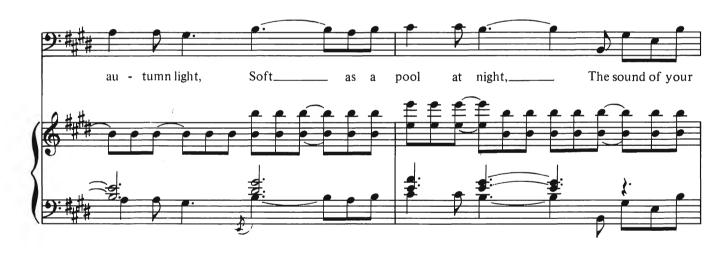


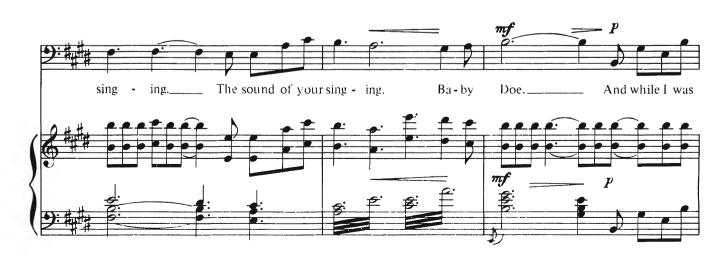
# Warm as the autumn light from THE BALLAD OF BABY DOE

John Latouche

Douglas Moore













## Turn tail and run then

THE BALLAD OF BABY DOE



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# Good people of Leadville

THE BALLAD OF BABY DOE



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#### The Police Agent's Aria

from
THE CONSUL

Gian Carlo Menotti



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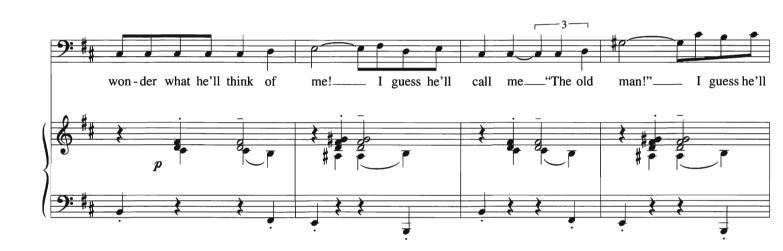


#### Soliloquy from CAROUSEL

Oscar Hammerstein II

Richard Rodgers































<sup>\*</sup> In the original Broadway production, a cut was made from \* to \*\*, and the line of dialogue was added to be used with the cut.









## Oh, Lawd Jesus, heah my prayer

THE EMPEROR JONES

Kathleen de Jaffa

Louis Gruenberg



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**₹** 

### Once in a while

#### FOUR SAINTS IN THREE ACTS

Gertrude Stein Virgil Thomson



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William M. Hoffman

# They wish they could kill me

THE GHOSTS OF VERSAILLES

John Corigliano



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<sup>\*</sup> Play filagreed figures in any order, varying the lengths of the rests between them.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Continue figures.



<sup>\*\*</sup> Repeat ( $\mathbf{J} = \text{ca. 84}$ ) while accompaniment proceeds ( $\mathbf{J} = 144$ ).













## Figaro was supposed to return the necklace

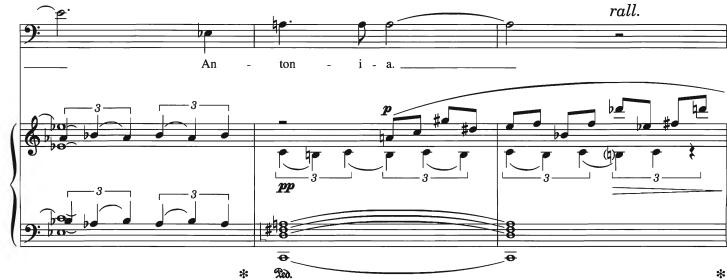
William M. Hoffman

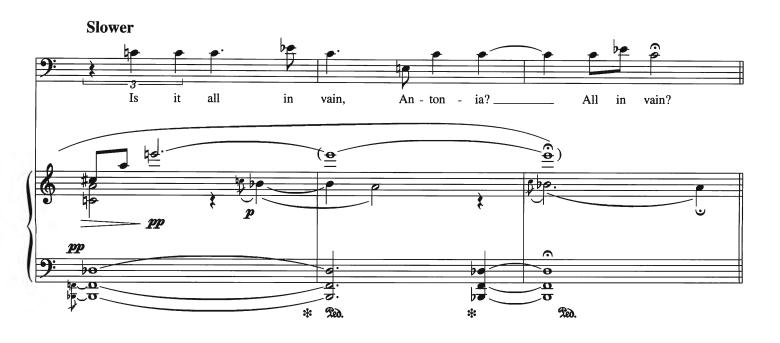
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THE GHOSTS OF VERSAILLES

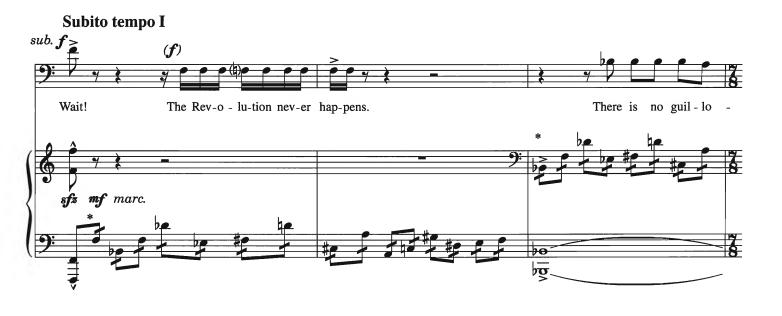
John Corigliano

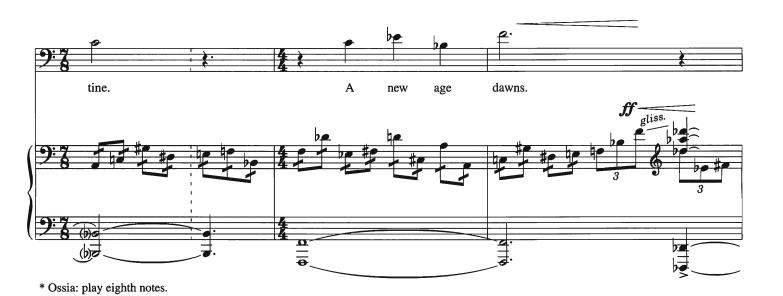




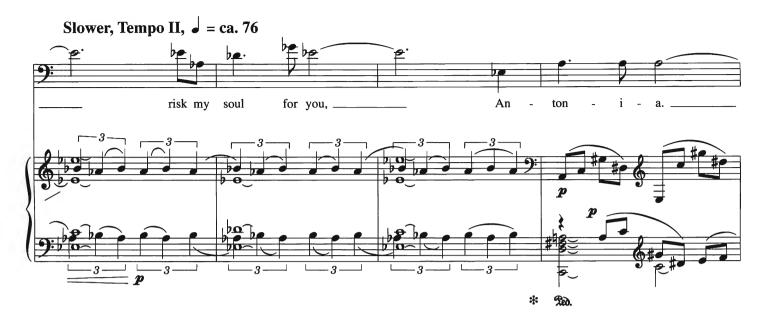


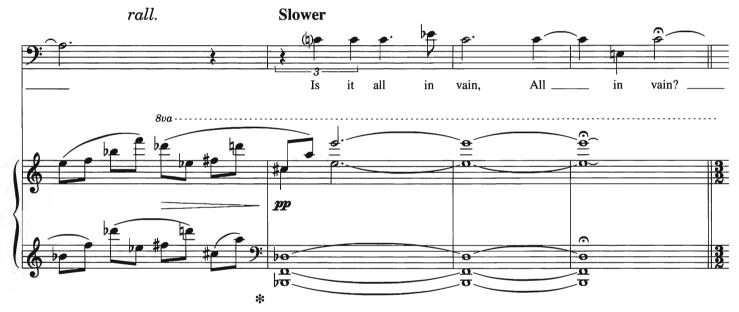


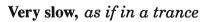


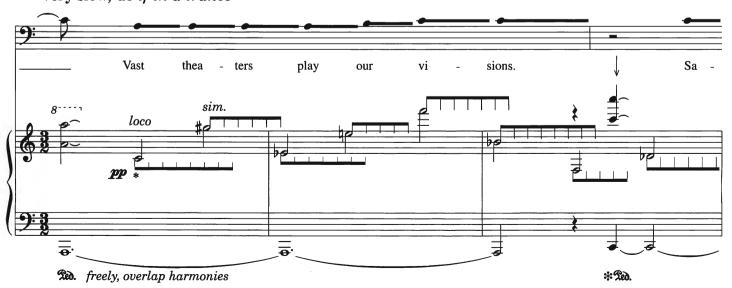




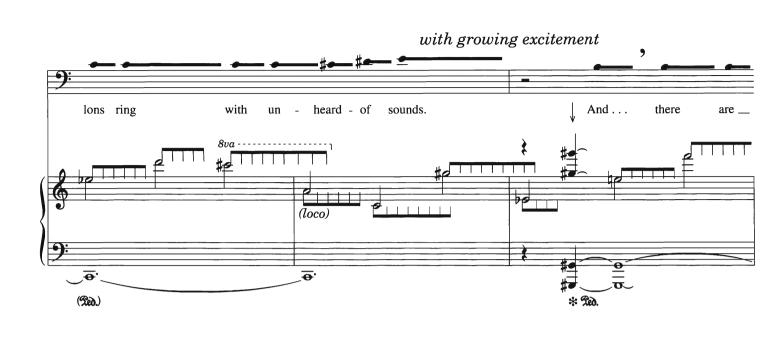


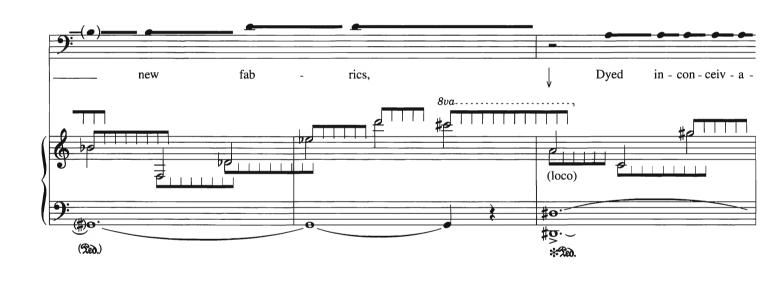


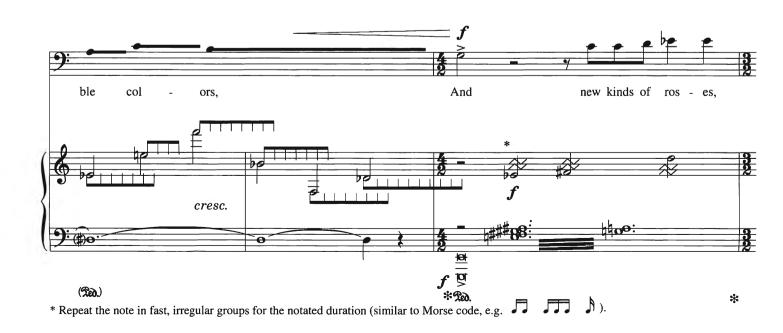




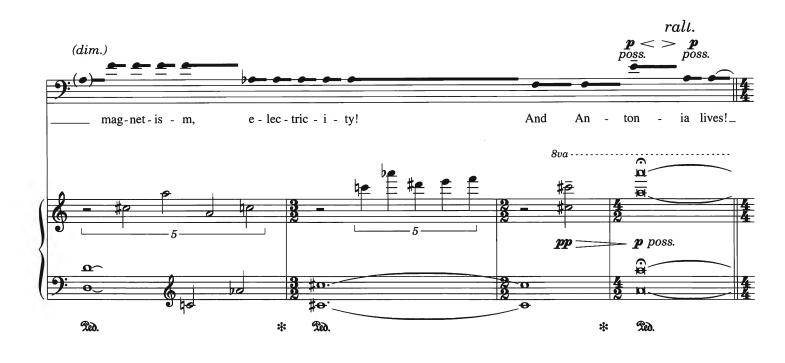
<sup>\*</sup> Play slow even pulses, ad lib., freely.

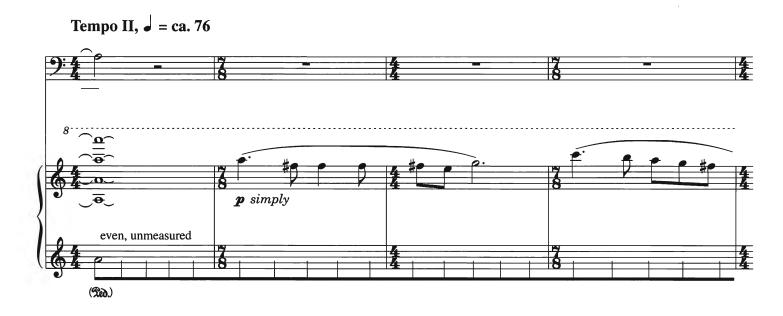


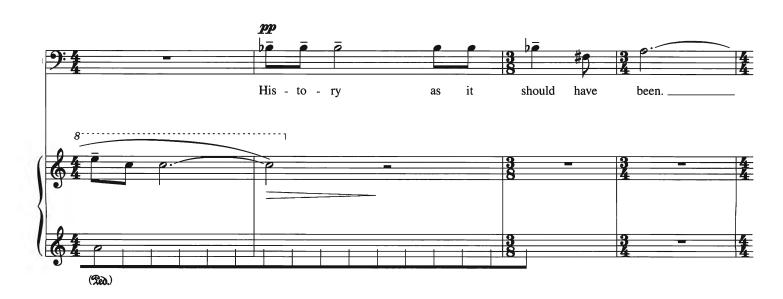


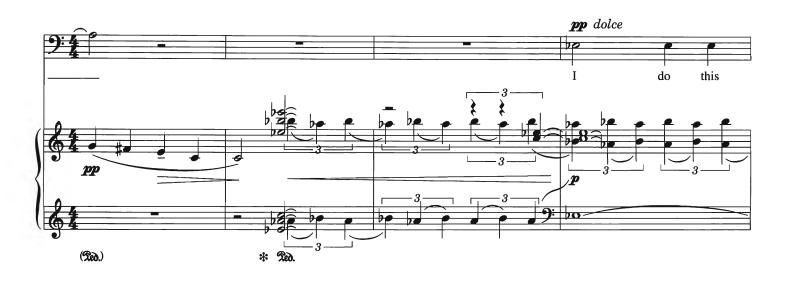


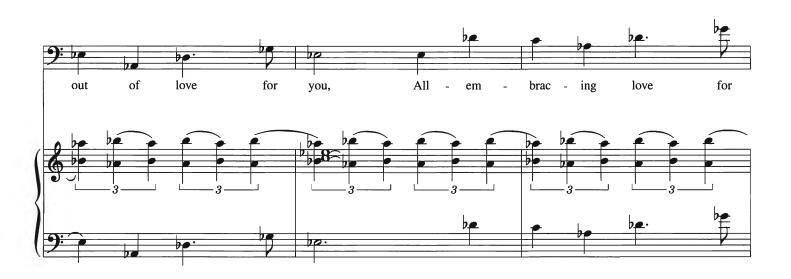


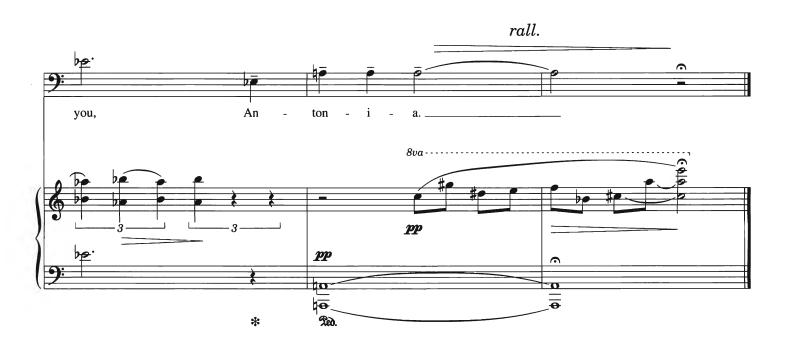












### The Doctor's Aria

# from THE GOOD SOLDIER SCHWEIK



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#### Dear Madame

#### THE GOOD SOLDIER SCHWEIK

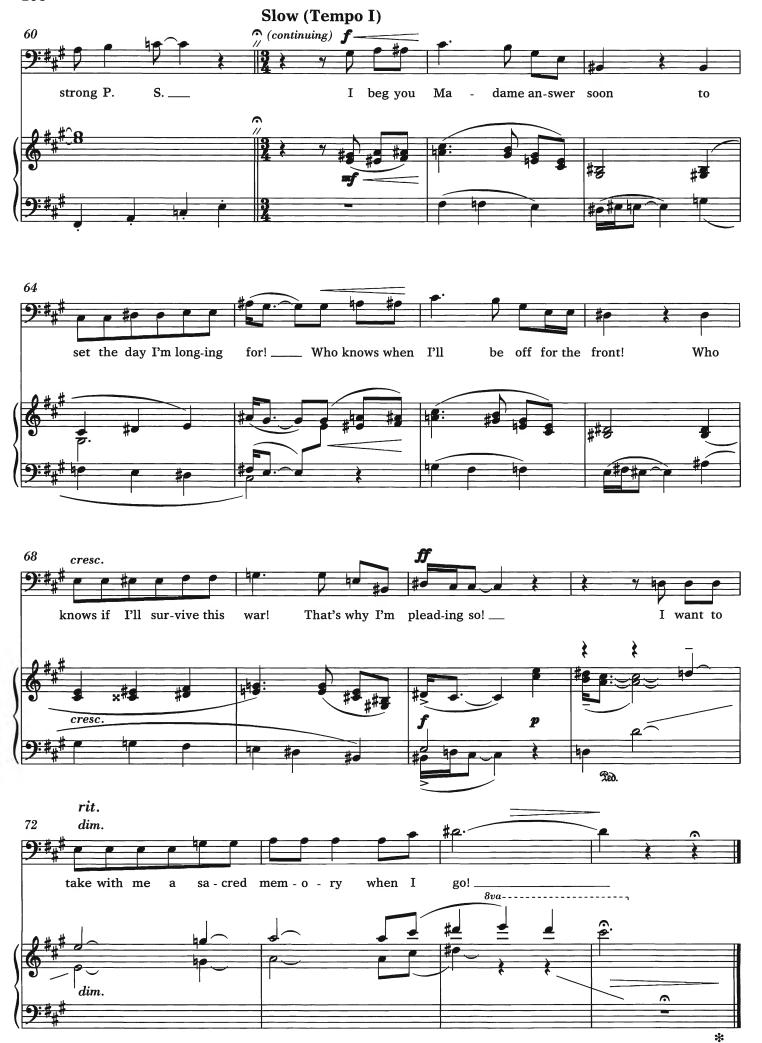
Lewis Allan Robert Kurka











# I remember long ago

THE GREAT GATSBY



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# The Songs of the Slave JOHN BROWN

Kirke Mechem



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### There was a knight

#### from LITTLE WOMEN

Mark Adamo



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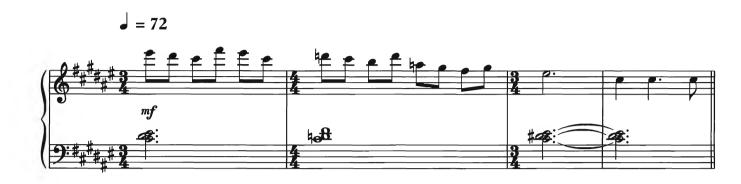




### Kennst du das Land

(Do you know the land) from LITTLE WOMEN

Mark Adamo





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# Thousands of Miles from LOST IN THE STARS

Maxwell Anderson Kurt Weill



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## O Tixo, Tixo, help me!

#### LOST IN THE STARS

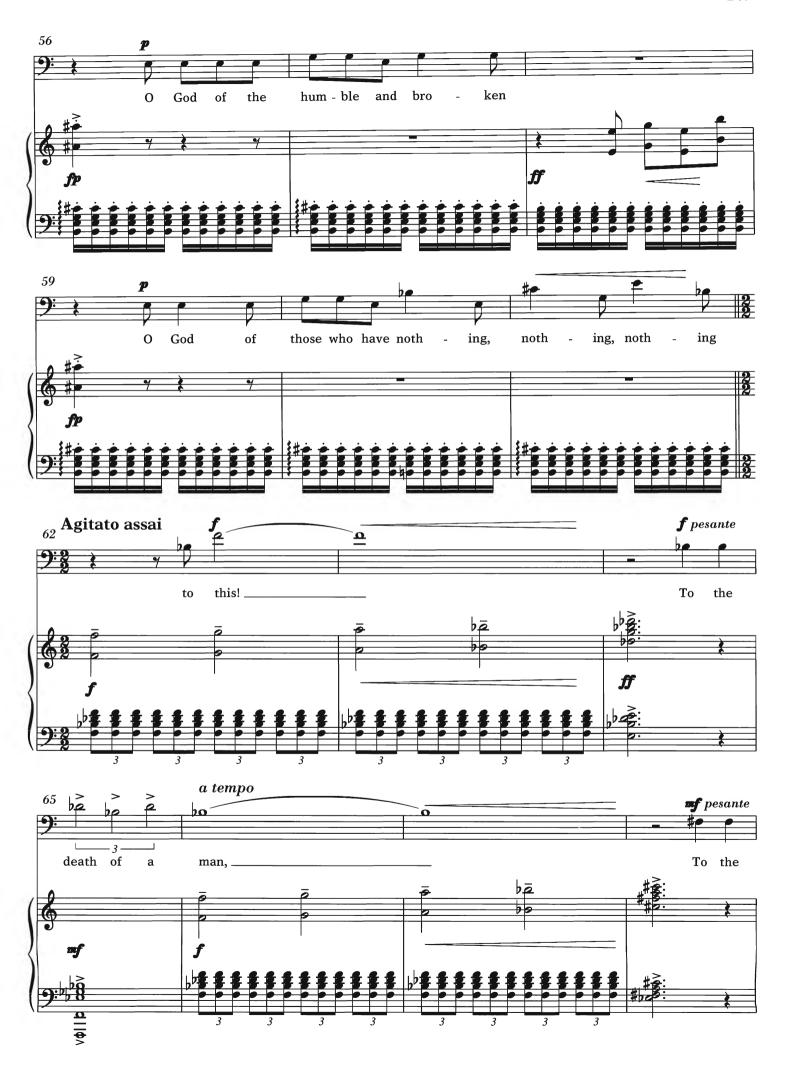


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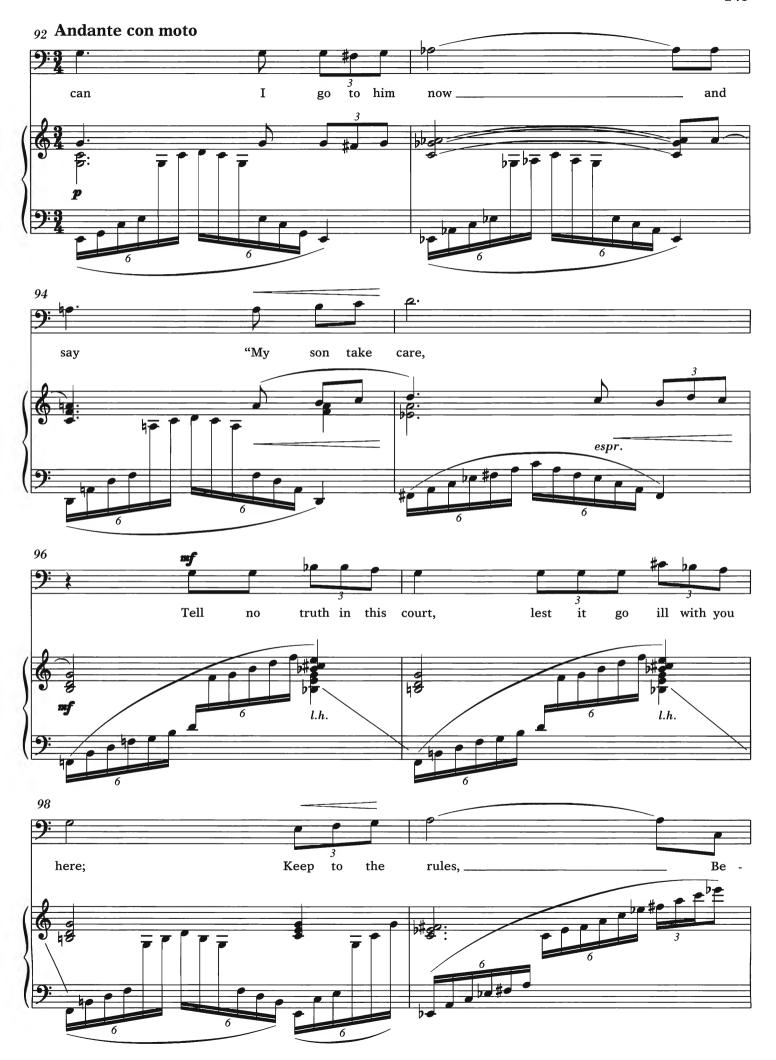
















### And this will be my epitaph

#### A HAND OF BRIDGE



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# Jehosophat! from McTEAGUE

Arnold Weinstein and Robert Altman

William Bolcom







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### In 1839 from THE MIGHTY CASEY



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## The Catcher's Song

Jeremy Gury

William Schuman

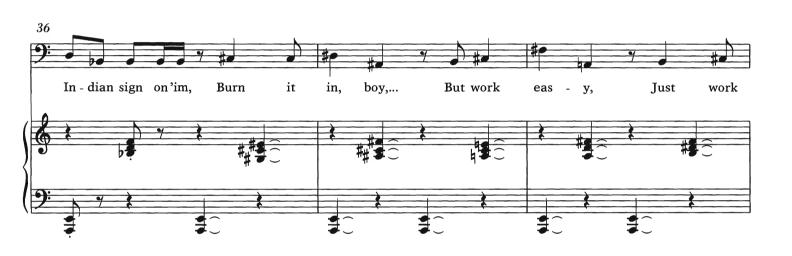


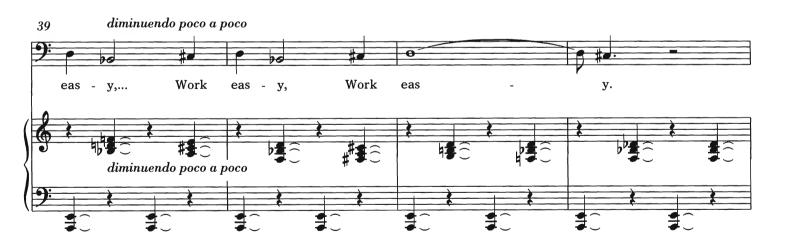
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# The Manager's Song from THE MIGHTY CASEY



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# The Umpire's Song



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# What what is it from THE MOTHER OF US ALL

Gertrude Stein

Virgil Thomson



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# Angel More from THE MOTHER OF US ALL



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## When the air sings of summer (Bob's Aria)

#### THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF

Gian Carlo Menotti



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## Let things be like they always was

STREET SCENE

Langston Hughes and Elmer Rice

Kurt Weill



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#### Horace's Aria from REGINA

#### Marc Blitzstein



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#### Greedy Girl from REGINA

Marc Blitzstein



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## Ah, poor Michele from

#### THE SAINT OF BLEECKER STREET

Gian Carlo Menotti



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#### Ol' Man River from SHOW BOAT

Oscar Hammerstein II Jerome Kern



In the dialect, "de" follows pronunciation rules for "the," with a long vowel before vowels, and the muted vowel before consonants.











### Epiphany

#### from SWEENEY TODD

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim



<sup>\*</sup> Optional transposition: For voices which lie higher, Bar 1 through the downbeat of Bar 63 may be taken up a tone.











\*\* Cue notes to be used in conjunction with optional transposition.



# Every day at church from TARTUFFE

Kirke Mechem



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# Venus of the East from TEA

Tan Dun and Xu Ying

Tan Dun



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## Our revels now are ended from THE TEMPEST

Mark Shulgasser adapted from Shakespeare

Lee Hoiby



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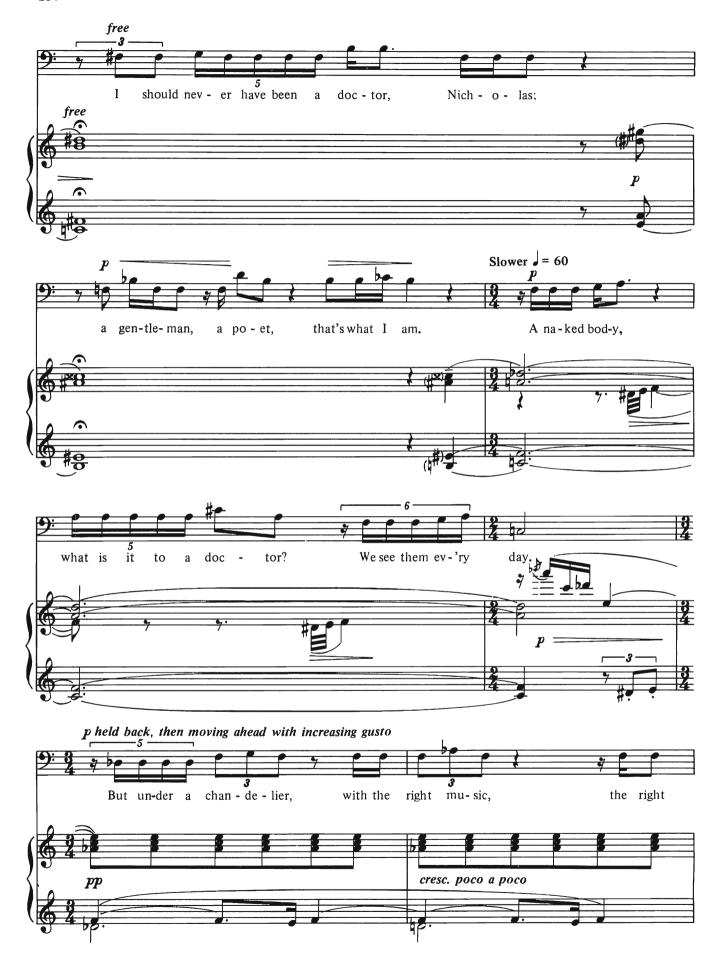


#### You rascal, you! I never knew you had a soul VANESSA



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## For ev'ry love there is a last farewell VANESSA

Gian Carlo Menotti

Samuel Barber



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### Man that is born of a woman wuthering heights





